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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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August 8, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Site Inspection, Far West Mine, Energy Fuels, M/037/019, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 2, 1991

Time of Inspection: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Conditions: Cloudy, warm

Participants: Wayne Wright, Jim Butt, Energy Fuels; Sal Venticinqué, BLM;
Holland Shepherd, Lowell Braxton, Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

Energy Fuels is currently reclaiming three sites attached to the Far West minesite; the Radon, the Cord and the Far West. The reclamation of all three sites is, at this point in time, under full steam. The Cord and the Radon sites were not sites that were attached to the original approved DOGM permit for the Far West. However, the operator is voluntarily going ahead and reclaiming portions of these two sites because there are some safety issues of concern associated with them.

All of the sites were originally owned and developed by Atlas Minerals. They were later transferred to Energy Fuels in 1988. Energy Fuels never mined these sites, but because of their acquired responsibilities, they are now reclaiming them.

Our first visit was made to the Cord minesite. A large shaft is found on this site that drops approximately 800 feet. The shaft opening is about 10 feet wide and about 15 feet long. The opening has been covered by a concrete and rebar cap; however, somebody within the last couple of years, has removed portions of that cap with a sledge hammer so that large holes now reveal the mine opening. The operator proposes to cover this shaft opening with an I-beam and metal plate structure and then bury the opening under about 4 - 5 feet of dirt, and revegetate.

The Cord site contains some metal buildings, which the operator will remove and salvage. A number of large concrete foundations will remain after the operator is through reclaiming the site. Any portals associated with the shafts will be sealed. Any protruding pieces of metal, like rebar, will be cut off before the operator is done with the site. We indicated to the operator that because the site was never permitted because of its pre-law status, no requirements would be made regarding complete reclamation of the site. The BLM has concurred with this approach.

Our next visit was made to the Radon minesite, closely associated with the Far West. It used to be called the Hecla Shaft. The site is a smaller disturbance than that of the Cord. It also had a very deep and wide mouthed shaft associated with it. The depth is probably around 600 feet. The operator has placed a steel iron cap over the top of the shaft and has buried this under 3 - 4 feet of soil material and will eventually grade it off and revegetate it. The shaft is now covered and no longer a public safety problem. At this site, there are some large concrete foundations that will also be left without covering up and demolishing or taking out. Again, this is a pre-law site. The operator is not required to perform complete reclamation on these facilities. The operator has committed to removing the safety hazards and reclaiming the site to a reasonable degree.

Our next visit was made to the Far West site itself. This site is a larger disturbance, and more recently worked than the other two (the Radon and the Cord). It was permitted with the Division and approved. The operator is meeting his commitment in reclaiming the site. The Far West contains several buildings that are now being demolished and removed by the operator. Concrete foundations associated with these buildings will be buried by topsoil. Waste dumps will be sloped to approximately 3:1 or 4:1. The portal has already been sealed. The mine access road will be ripped all the way to the county asphalt road and blocked off so that people cannot gain access to the reclaimed site.

Mr. Jim Butt is the contractor that has been hired by Energy Fuels to perform the salvage, demolition and reclamation work at this particular site. We spoke to Mr. Butt during the course of our inspection of the Radon and the Far West. We discussed some of the details of the reclamation to take place on these two sites.

The operator hopes to be done reclaiming the Far West sites by the end of August. I obtained some photographs from Mr. Wright that show the reclamation of the shaft at the Radon. The file contains a letter from Mr. Roger Smith addressing

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what will be done at the Cord, the Radon and the Far West sites. The letter includes information which describes the methodology to be used in sealing the shafts at the Radon and Cord sites.

The Division indicated that we are pleased with the work that is being done at these three sites and commended the operator in accomplishing what has been done so far.

cc: Roger Smith, Energy Fuels
Lowell Braxton
Wayne Hedberg